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I fear you do value it sufficiently, but I hope you will in time know better." I cannot here repeat all that the old gentleman said on the occasion; the virtue of *saving*, however, was the theme, and he did it ample justice. The boys of the village accompanied Harry a considerable way, and some of his most intimate friends went with him the length of Belfast. The night was spent in mirth and jollity, and on the morning they separated, he set off for Donaghadee, and they returned to their native village. He naturally felt those emotions which arise in the breast, on leaving the scenes of early days, and the companions of youthful gaiety; these, however, did not make a deep impression, and his natural cheerfulness, together with the anticipation of pleasures to which he was yet a stranger, soon restored his mind to its usual ease and tranquillity.

(*To be continued.*)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

TO THE PARENTS OF CHILDREN AT
THE BELFAST LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL.

IT having been considered advantageous for the children at the Lancasterian School, to have a Library attached thereto, consisting of such books as are suitable for the improvement of youthful minds, and that those books should be lent them for perusal in the same manner in which the public libraries are conducted in this town, it is presumed that the importance and utility of such an appendage to the institution will so plainly appear to the parents of the children, that it will insure their attention to the few hints which follow, and their adherence to the rules and regulations hereto subjoined.

They must be sensible that to enable their children to reap all the advantages to be derived from a capability of reading, it is a matter of prime importance to supply them with books; as, to teach them to read, and not give them the opportunity of exercising their abilities in that way, would be no better than to instruct them in any mechanical branch of business, and afterwards to deny them the necessary tools to work with.

The present high price of books, however, in a great measure precludes them, individually, from enjoying that advantage; as it is but few books that can fall to the lot of persons even in the middle station in life. To remedy this defect, many wise and considerate persons have, in different parts of the country associated together, and by entering into monthly subscriptions, funds have been raised for the purchase of books, for the use of the body of subscribers at large. A plan similar to this, on a lower scale, is hereby suggested; and by the small contribution of one halfpenny per week, paid by each child at the Lancasterian School, a fund may in some time be raised, for the purchase of many books which they might never otherwise become acquainted with: by these means they may have access to books, and to a species of information which they could never otherwise expect individually to enjoy, even supposing them to be of a superior class in the community. It will also call forth the powers of the mind, and create in them a taste for reading, and for mental improvement, which but for such an opportunity, might lie dormant for the whole course of their lives.

The insignificance of the subscription is such, that it must come within the means of the poorest person

in the community. Careless parents must they therefore be, and inattentive to the welfare of their children, who would not contribute so small a portion of their earnings for a purpose so laudable, and so fraught with advantages to themselves and their families. It is not, however, considered that they have fulfilled their duty by thus enabling their children to obtain books; an equally important one yet remains to be mentioned; and that is, that they use all their power and influence over their children to be attentive to them when they have procured them; by every means to induce them to read with care and attention, so as to be able to remember, and to give some account of what they have read. In order to carry this into effect, it will require the particular care of their parents to examine them frequently as to the subject matter of what they have been reading, as no other means can be more conducive to that desirable end; nor can any thing give greater encouragement to their perseverance, than the attention and well timed applause of their parents. They are therefore, seriously called upon to hold out every inducement to their children for exercising their mental faculties in reading and digesting such books as may be put into their hands, and as far as in their power to explain to them what may appear to be difficult for them to comprehend.

In school every encouragement is, and will be given them by their teachers; but their efforts must be in a great measure unavailing, if they are not heartily seconded by their parents at home. They should pay particular attention to their conduct in their leisure hours, and not suffer them to waste their precious time in unnecessary amusement, but by all means to induce them to be

attentive to their books when they are not in school: this will not only expedite their learning but will be the means of storing their minds with useful knowledge; at a time when they are most susceptible of improvement. It is a circumstance well known, that a person advanced in years will remember what he has learnt in his youth, much better than what he has been informed of at a later period of life. The youthful memory therefore will gain strength by exercise, and the more that is laid on it, the more it will bear. Let them set apart a few hours on Sunday evenings for the examination of their children, as to what they have read during the week, which will tend greatly towards strengthening the memories of the children; and parents themselves will derive information from the practice. Let the diligent and attentive be rewarded; and the idle and careless be reproached, and shaped into better conduct. Rewards may be given them without expense; as few families but have different ways and means of rewarding their children, without incurring expense; among others, a recommendation to school for good conduct at home, shall always be well received, and considered in the rewards given in school.

In all cases, there is an awful responsibility on parents with respect to their duty towards their children; but in the case in hand, that responsibility is greatly augmented. In many instances, poverty may be fairly pleaded in extenuation of the parent not giving his child instruction; but in this case such plea cannot be justly put in, as the trifling contribution of one halfpenny per week, and a few hours application on Sunday evening, when they cannot be so well otherwise employed, is all that is requisite for discharging the most important duty

which one human being can owe to another. Some may falsely reason, and say, "Why should we do more for our children, than our parents have done for us?" Let this be a sufficient answer: Because you have in your power what your parents never had; therefore are you called upon to do more for your children than has been done for you. Let parents therefore consider well the consequences of neglect in this important point of duty; and that they will not only, at the last day, be accountable for their own actions, but also for such crimes as their offspring may be guilty of, under the influence of that ignorance which they have now in their power to remove.

Parents taking such pains with their children, will be well rewarded even in this life, by observing the visible improvement they will soon discover; as children managed in this way will speedily show an evident superiority over those whose instruction has been neglected.

It is resolved, that no books shall be put into their hands but such as will tend towards improving their minds, and strengthening their understandings: all such as would be likely to mislead or misdirect the mind, shall be rejected; and nothing but such as may give them proper views of life and things, shall ever find its way into the Library. All that is required, therefore, is a strict adherence on the part of their parents to the hints here thrown out, and to the rules and regulations annexed, to produce a degree of improvement in their children, as satisfactory to them, as honourable to the Lancasterian Institution.

A few books have been already purchased, but it has not been thought right to lend any, till the

collection shall be larger, and the Rules and Regulations generally known.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE
BELFAST LANCASTERIAN JUVENILE
LIBRARY.

Commenced 22d November, 1813.

I. ALL the children, male and female, whose parents are inclined that they should become members of the Belfast Lancasterian Juvenile Library, shall pay into the hands of the Teacher one halfpenny per week, which shall be laid out in the purchase of books, suitable to the age and condition of the children; the subscription so be collected every Monday.

II. That the books shall be lent to the subscribers for such length of time as may be proportionate to the size of the book, and the capacity of the children.

III. That all books lent shall be returned on the day appointed for that purpose, under a penalty of one penny for each day it shall be detained longer.

IV. That all books shall be returned free from damage, and if more than necessarily dirty or abused, a fine shall be levied in proportion to the damage or abuse the book may have sustained.

V. That any book lost by a subscriber shall be paid for; but if it be inconvenient to pay the whole price at once, an additional weekly subscription will be taken, in proportion to the ability of the parents.

VI. Any subscriber refusing or neglecting to pay for lost books, shall forfeit all interest in the Library.

VII. That all subscribers who may leave school after finishing their education, or where it evidently appears, that they leave it from necessity, shall be continued members,